



The Mouth of the River A Publication of the Oyster River Journalism Class Issue 2

Oyster River High School, Durham, N.H. 03824

December 14, 1989

T-shirts promoting drugs, violence DRESS CODE BEING FORMULATED TO DISCOURAGE OFFENSIVE ATTIRE

by Lisa Hughson

This year approximately twenty Oyster River High School students have been told to change teeshirts, jeans with extensive holes, and shirts considered inappropriate, according to O.R.H.S. Principal Ann Brown.

"Such students will be asked to change, to cover, or to turn clothing inside out," stated Ms. Brown.

"I think the key on the dress code is not being offensive," noted Superintendent Al Elwell. "Good taste

and common sense are important so that no article of clothing interferes with someone's participation or education."

"I think if parents allow you to wear what you choose, then it can't be that bad so it should be allowed. I think it should be up to the parents," commented Senior Mark Walsh.

According to The Law of Public Education, "schools may enact some regulations concerning dress and appearance of students if self-evident. The extent of which they may control such matters of personal preference depends on the facts."

"Personally, I feel there are much more important things in the world to worry about than dress codes, but I feel that nudity or test the administration. Our system is imperfect. We allow a great deal, it is both a burden and blessing of freedom," stated Alex Herlihy.

"It is claimed that the ripped jeans show too much skin. Shorts and tank tops show as much skin yet they are allowed to be worn," said Senior Justin Mentor. "I just don't think it's fair."

"Students should be



allowed to wear what they want unless it is racial, profane, or distractful to others. If a student comes to class in a clown suit, naturally it will draw attention and little work will get done," said Stephen Lord.

"When there is more rip than jean, it becomes distracting. It becomes harmful to the educational and that is when something has to be done about it," commented Ms. Brown.

We are trying real hard to promote an alcohol free. Students wearing clothing with the opposite message are suggested to others an inappropriate message.

DRESS- cont. pg.5

Resolved reasonably says Winterbottom O.R. DRINKING CLUB T-SHIRTS SEND UNACCEPTABLE MESSAGE

by Jenna McNeill

The controversy over the Oyster River Drinking Club T-shirts has been "resolved" through what Asst. Prin. for Student Services Nancy Winterbottom called "a matter of reasonable human communication."

The ORDC, as it is called by its members, made T-shirts, based on Senior Spook Wills' idea. On the front left-hand corner is an animal, presumably a bobcat, drinking through a funnel. The bobcat is surrounded by the words "Oyster River Drinking Club. Members Only. Est. 1989." On the back is the club's slogan, "The only way to go is through a funnel," as well as a member number, from one to 24.

Club members said that they were asked individually by Winterbottom, Prin. Ann Draper-Brown, and Asst. Prin. Neil Shapiro to take off or cover the shirts, or turn them inside out.

Director Dave Nichols also spoke to most of the athletes in the club.

Officials were concerned that the T-shirts were "disruptive to the educational environment," and distracted some teachers and students. Asst. Supt. of Schools Albert Elwell said he felt that though the other T-shirts were offensive, the Drinking Club shirts were more of a problem because they "suggest that Oyster River condones the Drinking Club, and we don't."

Club members agreed that they would not wear the shirts any more, although many still felt that the administration is infringing on their rights. Senior Joe Camacho protested the administration's decision longer than any other club member, but finally decided that, "It just wasn't worth

CLUB- cont. pg.5



Nichols seeking to control excesses FAN BEHAVIOR AT ISSUE WITH ADMINISTRATION

by Alison Clifford

The student body and school administration at Oyster River High School have been fighting a silent battle during the 1989 sports season, the initial battle line drawn on the volleyball court.

The issue has been fan behavior at games, and the opinions of administrators and many students have differed.

In September at a girls' varsity volleyball game, some fans wore bathrobes,

stomped, cheered, and blew horns. Before the next home game, Athletic Director David Nichols called both volleyball teams together and warned that excessive cheering might result in the loss of points.

Varsity volleyball player Juli Bullard said that the talk took away from practice time.

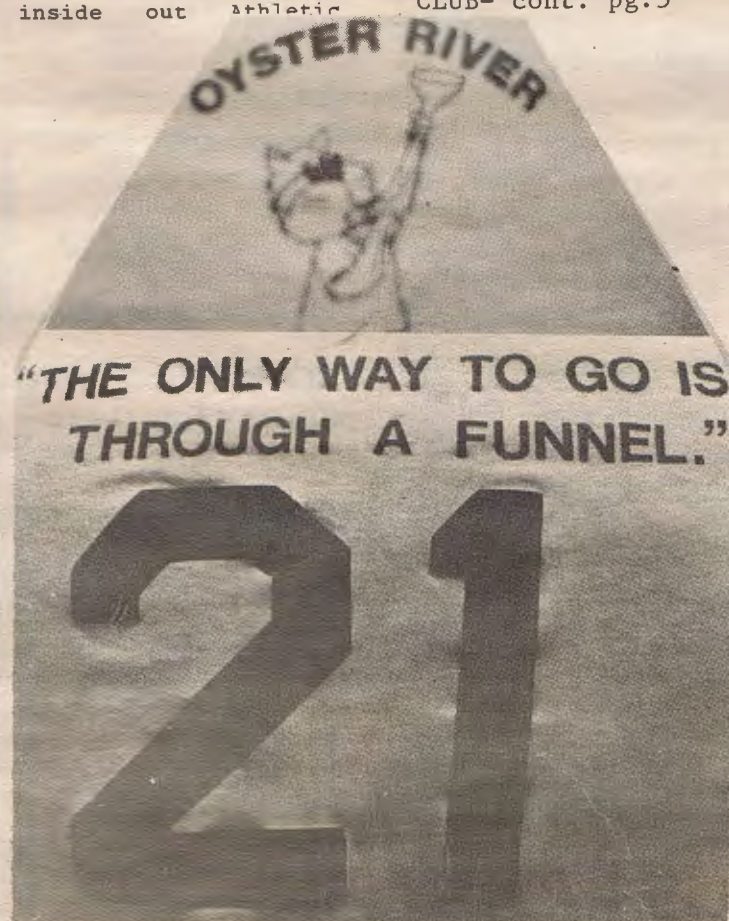
"They (Mr. Nichols and Mrs. Brown) should not have come to the teams. They should

have gone to the fans. I don't understand why they can't show their spirit."

"I'm not trying to suppress school spirit," said Nichols. "Just channel it in different forms."

During last year's volleyball and baseball games was when complaints began coming into Mr. Nichols' office. He said at last season's volleyball tournament, fans first

FAN- cont. pg. 5



O.R. airs videos on Channel 12

by Matt Cloutier

As a result of a special deal with Continental Cablevision of Exeter, the ORHS Videotape Production class is able to air "Video Out" - a TV magazine - regularly. The show is similar in format to other TV magazines such "60 minutes" or "Chronicle", and can be seen on local cable channel 12 Mondays at 9:00pm.

The show is produced entirely by the students, under the guidance of Paul Gasowski. Students must film, interview, narrate and edit their pieces, using Super-VHS video format. The class is very liberal in structure, allowing students

to use the video and editing equipment almost any period of the day, as well as after school. When the pieces, ranging from coverage of student businesses to video art, are complete, they are linked by Tom Willey, the Video Out narrator, and the tape is sent to Continental Cablevision, where it is transferred to U-Matic 3/4" format; ready for the air.

"I enjoy creating something for TV that people can watch," Said Jim Poteet, one of the Video Production students. "It's fun, and gives experience for a possible career in the Video field."

The students involved in the show's production are: Tom Berry, John Cirillo, John Foss, Eric Knapp, Bill McAnirlin, Jim Poteet, Jason Wall, and Tom Willey.

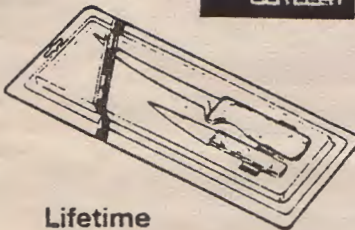


TALENT SHOW SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 21
Mr. Mroz, Talent Show director, in last years teachers' skit.

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Mrs. Whaley FIGHTING FOR CHANGE, BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS, A LIFE OF COMMITMENT

by Jenna McNeill

"Working for change takes a lot of energy," says Oyster River High School English teacher Elizabeth Whaley, "especially when you want to see the position of women in society change faster."

As an English teacher at Oyster River, Whaley is breaking down the barriers. She is a feminist, fighting a continuous battle against racism, sexism, and inequality.

Whaley presently teaches women's, American, and popular literature; as well as senior seminar in literature and American studies. In addition, she has taught English literature, contemporary novel, explorations, grammar and vocabulary, advanced writing, Shakespeare, mythology, and ninth-grade English. She currently teaches a women's studies course to the community one

night a month at ORHS.

Whaley received her bachelor of arts degree at Wellesly College, and went on to get her master's degree at the University of New Hampshire. She began teaching English in 1968 at Coe-Brown Northwood Academy. She then taught at Old Orchard Beach where she stayed for one year before coming to Oyster River 15 years ago.

Whaley says that her own evolution into feminism was a gradual thing, and that she unknowingly used sexist language in her master's thesis. Around 1962-63, she became politicized, marched and participated in the civil rights movement, where she felt that women still were not taken seriously.

In the late 70's, Whaley heard a presentation on a women's literature course, and she and a friend began a similar course for

young adult women. The course never took off, so Whaley adapted the curriculum to fit high school students.

"As my consciousness became increasingly more feminist, I realized that education like this was needed," Whaley says. "I feel that I have a responsibility to teach from a feminist perspective, but also to teach how the world really is."

In 1985, Whaley was awarded the Susan B. Anthony Award "for the depth and breadth of her commitment to feminist issues, for her work to break down social, economic, and political barriers for women, and her responsibility toward women of the future." according to the YWCA.

"I think more women have to speak out-become political - for the world to change. Women need to convince men. People have to be willing to take risks."

Ms. Winterbottom calls new Quiet Study Plan "A means of tutoring and special help"

by Jenna McNeill

On November 26, Oyster River High School adopted a new "quiet study" program for juniors and seniors having academic difficulty, as well as any student desiring help in a subject, according to Asst. Principal for Student Services Nancy Winterbottom.

Formerly, the "assigned study" program applied only to ninth-graders and sophomores during their unscheduled time. These studies are still in effect, and are monitored by Mr. Larry Robins.

Under the new program, 30-35 juniors and seniors who have failed a class are sent to various rooms, and are helped by the teacher of a subject they are failing, or a related subject.

Quiet study "is really a means of tutoring, the idea being that if students get special help and tutoring, they will be able to bring their grades up," says Winterbottom. She adds that the program is designed so that students can get

help every period from a math or science teacher, and a social studies or English teacher. Two studies are scheduled each period (except sixth), one monitored by a social studies or English teacher, the other by a math or science teacher.

Mrs. Winterbottom expects these assignments to be suitable, as the fields of math and science, (like social studies and English) are similar

enough that a teacher of one class should be able to help a student with the other class.

Ms. Winterbottom says, "There certainly has been some resistance from juniors and seniors, however most of them are being quite cooperative." When students have protested, the guidance counselors have called the parents, who, according to Winterbottom, have all supported the quiet studies.

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HOLIDAY CONCERT WELL ATTENDED

by Alison Clifford

The Oyster River High School Annual Holiday Concert, on Thursday, Dec. 7 in the High School cafeteria was a "great success" according to music director Steve Denson.

The high school's chorus, chamber singers, jazz band, and mixed instrument ensemble musical viva performed in front of an audience many of whom had to stand after seats were filled.

Senior Karen Gooze said, "This concert is the most fun of all. The audience got into it, they had fun!"

The program consisted of pieces by Bach and Mozart, to an arrangement by Steve Denson himself.

DENSON ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION FOR JUNE

by Matt Cloutier

After seven years as music director at Oyster River High School Steve Denson is retiring. "I hate to leave, but it's time to stop teaching and pursue my long time love of music" commented Denson.

"Teaching is a full time occupation and right now I want to dedicate my life to music" said Denson. He is not positive of his future plans but

he knows they will include music. Denson has applied for the American Academy in Rome prize. If he receives the fellowship he will be supported for a year in Rome. There he hopes to finish his textbook titled Music History and Theory. Denson is also considering opening a private school with friends. The school would highly emphasize the musical arts.



STEVE DENSON

Mrs. Gephart our local triathlete

by Marnie Hylton

As she begins to stretch, her heart pumps faster and faster. Her legs feel like marshmallows and her head spins like a cyclone. The California air is hot and dry, as it is the heart of summer. So much depends on this race, as well as her fourteenth

position nationally. She is up against top triathletes from all over the world.

Mrs. Carol Gephart is a triathlete. She has been competing in triathlons for the past four years. A typical triathlon consists of a one mile swim, 10K run and a 25 mile bike ride. Mrs. Gephart was previously an Earth

Science teacher at Oyster River High School from 1985 to 1987 and at the time is substituting for O.R.H.S.

Exercise became an important part of her life in the early 70's, when she started swimming in her High School, in Kalamazoo, Michigan. At Hope College in Holland, Michigan, she joined the track and cross country teams. Gephart began biking in college and decided to start racing. After displaying an excellent ability in the three sports, she decided to triathlon in 1985.

Gephart competes in a few triathlons in this area (New England), in towns such as Durham, Lee, Madbury

and a big race in Nottingham called the Mt. Pawtuckaway. She enjoys racing in the area but explains:

"Many of the bigger, more competitive races take place in larger areas or cities, I often race in Chicago."

Gephart placed seventh in a big race in Montreal, Canada, two years ago, with competitors from all over the world. This year, she placed tenth in a similar race in Chicago. These two races are some of the most competitive, as they are National Championships. Her average time for a typical race is two hours.

Mrs. Gephart begins a rigorous training program on the first of GEPHART-cont. pg. 6

David Van der Voet takes delayed entry into army



July- Van der Voet in uniform

David M. Van der Voet of Durham, N.H. has enlisted in the Army under the provisions of the Delayed Entry Program.

Van der Voet is a student at the Oyster River High School. He is the son of Dir and Kathleen Van der Voet of Durham. His interests include skiing and he has been on the honor roll at his high school.

Members of the Delayed Entry Program are allowed to select a training field and secure a training date while taking as much as one year before actually reporting for active duty.

Van der Voet will report on July 24, 1990 to Fort McClellan, Ala. where he will complete the Army's eight-week basic training course. Upon completion of basic, Van der Voet will train in his selected career field in the military police.

Through the GI Bill, Van der Voet qualified for \$10,800 toward his college or vocational education.

Staff Sgt. Thomas Bamford, Army recruiter in Dover, assisted Van der Voet with his enlistment in the U.S. Army. Call Bamford for more information on career opportunities in the Army at (603) 742-3702.

A senior tradition P.J. Day Dec. 22

by Marnie Hylton

Every year, the seniors of Oyster River High School have a Pajama day. The traditional day is the day we are let out for Christmas break. This year Pajama day will be on December 22.

The seniors wear all sorts of pajama wear, and often bring in stuffed animals and make themselves look like young children by making freckles and pigtails.

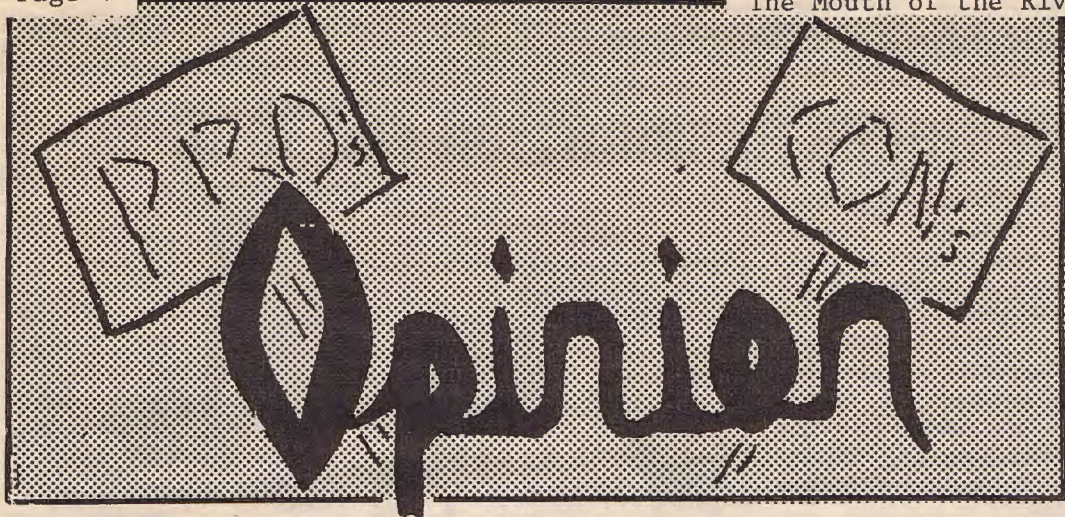
The seniors also sing Christmas Carols at lunch.

Senior Lee Rimbach commented "I hope it brings our class together, it should be fun."



Greg Cownern-
Pajama Day '88





The security gate: Lethal spikes should go

Early Colonial forts were circled by palisades; World War bunkers and trenches were warded by barbed wire; The Romans used lines of set military pikes as fortification in battle. A six foot, locked, metal portcullis with spikes at its peak that are nearly half a foot long and hideously dangerous is used today. This is "the gate"; used to keep would be thieves from stealing the priceless collection of notebooks, papers, pens, pictures, old donuts, and lint that lies otherwise unguarded in Oyster River's lockers.

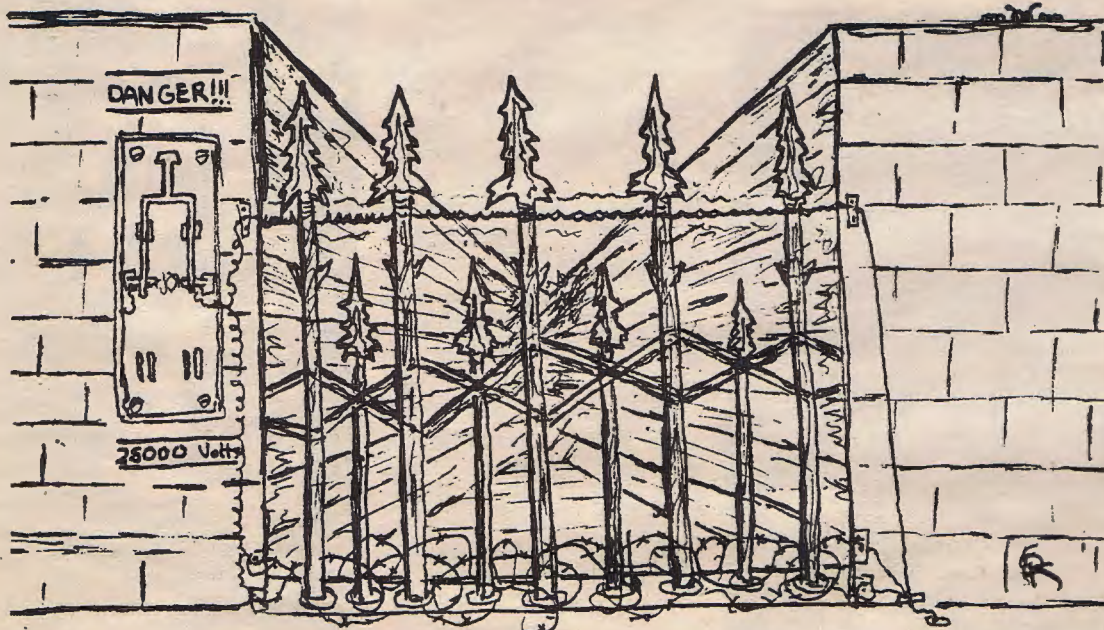
Is it really necessary to out do history in this matter? The gate, pulled into place after school is over and abandoned (or during dances and games) is there to deter students from entering the halls -- presumably because any student left unchaperoned in such a tantalizing thing as a hall is bound to vandalize and steal. The gate serves as a reminder to these students that this isn't allowed. The spikes help.

Most students have had or will have the need to get across the gate at some point. Many of these student will simply jump over the fence to get the books they need for their 13-hour night of homework. Because gates are supposed to stop people and this one doesn't leads us to believe that the gate doesn't work. However, one student would disagree.

Last year, a student was injured in the leg while attempting to climb over the spiked gate. The injury was fairly mild - a few stitches and all was well - but if a student was impaled through the stomach or the neck, then that student could die. The school budget is not a strong enough thing to fight a legal battle. There are two obvious solutions to this problem:

One is to trust students enough to not have a gate at all. Each individual room is locked, and anyone who could get past these locks could certainly get past the gate.

Playing the devil's advocate, let's assume that the students can't be trusted. In this case, a gate would be need. Well, here's an idea -- get rid of the spikes! Or better yet, put in a gate that reaches all the way to the ceiling. Of course, a cheaper alternative would be to put a grate in the floor to drain off blood, or to supply the nurse with bodybags. Or another spiked gate could be put up to keep people from climbing on the present one...



A new high school? Why? A satire (that means it's humorous!)

by Richard Tappan

With all the talk of a proposed new high school, all of us are thrown into fits of sadness about the thought that someday this remarkable piece of architecture may not serve as the setting of our educational inspiration. That fills most lovers of fine architecture with regret.

What do you call that quality of total atmosphere? That quality that sets the mood here at ORHS?

Words in English fail me as I think of the impact of this building on my psyche. The French word "ambiance" is the best one can do to describe the feeling these cinder block walls induce.

I will remember the years of dining pleasure bathed in the warmth of blue-white mercury lamps. The cafeteria furnishings in early Alcatraz, the tinkle of plastic against styrofoam, accompany the unhurried joy of the mid-morning repast.

A gentle carillon sounds and we mingle with a few hundred of our closest friends in the intimate flow of young learners anxiously moving along in one continuous surge to fifth period classes.

Most of the rooms have wall to wall floors, except 113 where the separation of the floor and outside wall affords us a chance to listen to the class in the room below.

In 109 a large crack running across the entire room reminds us of our closeness to Mother Earth -- it is where Literature and the Land is taught. Actually it marks the spot where the building has split during settling. It surely is a fault, but Mother Nature's, not the architect's.

In English classes we are so used to writing in drafts that we don't even notice the breeze rustling our papers, and this with the windows tightly shut.

SATIRE- cont. pg.5

Those after school jobs

Working at Friendly's doesn't live up to name

by Peter Grant

"Work is hell," or it is according to Matt Groening and myself, it is also the title of a book he wrote. The first page determines whether or not one's job is worth while. It had questions like: Are all the people there worse off than you? Does it seem like no matter what you do the boss would rather see you tied across a pair of railroad tracks? Is it worth the money? The answer to all of these questions: I'm quitting Saturday.

Being less than average working age, finding a job is hard enough without turning around and quitting and having to start over again. So for the duration of the summer I tried to remember that I was getting paid for my misery, and that it would all end when I had enough for that "big purchase".

First, there is "Beulah", my boss. If there's ever anything wrong with a job, it must be somehow related to the boss. This is a

piece of knowledge that I've acquired since my life as a member of the work force started. Well, Beulah has been working for the Friendly Corporation for over 18 years, and I suppose that if I'd worked that long in tight maroon plaid that even a grandmother would think is tacky, I'd go after the new guy too. Example: I report to work to unload the truck, a job for which there is no need for a uniform because you don't get dirty. Beulah notices the truck is late. Bert (the manager) suggests that I help out the cook. Beulah decides I would be more useful if I was scraping old fudge out of pots. The stains have yet to come out of the shirt I was wearing.

Second is our faithful pal Buck. Buck is about a foot and a half taller than I am, and probably twice that much wider. He says that since he started working at Friendly's,

JOB- cont. pg. 6

SATIRE- from pg.4

The stained glass filters the incoming light setting a mood of reverence -- an atmosphere reminiscent of the great European cathedrals.

The atmosphere at ORHS is as varied as the latitudes of earth. In one period one can experience a polar climate and in the next one is immediately delivered into an Amazonian steam bath.

The contrasts are truly dramatic. Speaking of drama, one can only sit spellbound at the amazing versatility of this structure when one attends a play or concert. The cafeteria is suddenly transformed into an auditorium. The audience always adds to the moving experience. In fact from the stage you can see them moving throughout the performance, moving from this side to that to see around heads and to increase circulation to their "extremities" sitting for two hours on metal folding chairs.

The gym facilities are another striking feature. When one searches for classroom space, offices, team meeting rooms, work-out, training spaces, etc., one finds them all in the same location. Flexibility is the word for multi-purpose spaces.

With no elevator, ramps or other handicapped facilities this noble structure is a daily reminder our blessings and it encourages compassion on the less fortunate. Would we pause to notice the handicapped if we occupied a new facility which did not draw our attention to their struggles?

We are not troubled

with intercoms or phones in classrooms we we are unlikely to disturb the office with our business.

When an emergency occurs in classrooms on the second floor or over the library especially, teachers and students learn to pull together in a rare gesture of mutual self-help. Why call in professionals when a familiar face is so much more comforting to the stricken?

In the event of any health problem arising during the day, a student can find solace if not comfort in the health suite. The infirmary area is conveniently located only inches from the nurse's desk providing for immediate attention to the patient's needs.

Also, ill students lying behind a make-shift screen are cheered by an endless stream of well-wishers who file through the expansive health facilities.

Students are seldom ill at Oyster River, however, because of the uplifting effect of nature being brought indoors. The lockers imitate the brilliance of the sun in all its radiance; sometimes the roof actually lets in a steady flow of rain creating the full meteorological effect.

During these heavy rains a reflecting pool forms in the teachers' parking lot reminding one of the grand parks associated with other works of monumental architecture.

A new high school? Why? The very halls echo with history, a reminder of past ages of hardships overcome. After all, it is through adversity that character is built.

There can be no doubt in any visitor's

mind that this is truly an exceptional high school facility. In contrasting it to Portsmouth, Dover, Winnacunnet, Concord, Hanover, and most other communities that make serious investments in their schools, this facility is no doubt an exception.

Why did the Long-Range Planning Committee call for a new high school? Why is everyone from the superintendent to the principal, faculty and students turning his or her back on this grand structure which has stood the test of time, that has shaped generations, that has helped young people to face the harsh realities of dreams deferred.

A new high school? Why?

Dress- from pg.1

priate 'message'. Compared to other schools, our dress code is very moderate, practically non-existent. Profanity do not belong in a school environment," said Ass. Prin. Nancy Winterbottom.

"What's offensive to one person may not be offensive to another," commented Senior Tara Madden. "I feel that high school students are capable of making their decisions and relying on their own judgement."

"Students should be allowed to wear what they choose as long it is not obscene or vulgar," said Lou Mroz. "The way we dress is an expression of who we are."

"I think you should be able to dress the way you want because that is the way you feel. Shouldn't we express our feelings?", asks Sophomore Mike Morgan.

According to state law, "The wearing of transparent hoisery, low-necked dresses, or any style of clothing tending toward immodesty in dress" is prohibited.

"I don't see what the big deal is about jeans with holes or the ORHS Drinking Club t-shirts. It's not like they're hurting anybody," commented Senior Matt Fournier.

"I think that School Administrators have the right to restrict what can be worn to school but there are also gray areas in what is appropriate. Some students just like to

CLUB- from pg.1

the battle." Other members felt that having the administration against them "would not help with getting into college."

However, Wills says the club still exists, and adds, "We still wear the shirts, we just don't wear them openly."

At the present time, the club has 19 members. Besides Camacho and Wills, they are: seniors Shawn Amazeen, Dave Chase, Doug Cleary, Geoff Forcier, Greg Gagnon, Chris Gault, Scott Goodman, Simon Kasowitz, Shawn Middleton, Erin Smith, Jeremy Ward (whose shirt is initialed D. D. - designated driver); and juniors Erin Celikkol, Matt Cloutier, Blake Garrigan, Jeremy Katz,

Don Roy, and Ben Simpson.

To be a member, a person has to be a good friend of the other members, and has to pay \$15.00 for a T-shirt. Camacho and Wills agreed that acceptance would be harder for a girl than for a boy, but not impossible. "It's really more of a friendship club than a drinking club," said Wills.

At a meeting of the Faculty Advisory Committee on October 25, the issue was discussed at length. According to the minutes of the meeting submitted by Mrs. Bev Conway, concerns rose from confusion about whether the shirts actually stood for a drinking club, or if students merely bought them. Officials were concerned that there was a "drinking requirement" for membership, which members insist there is not.

Ms. Winterbottom said that the section of the 1988-1989 student handbook on student dress was somehow left out of this year's handbook. Among other things, the former handbook cited "Any article which displays indecent writing, pictures, or slogans," as impermissible. The faculty "struggled" with the issue of what was and was not acceptable in school, and decided that the shirts were not appropriate.

Ms. Winterbottom says she mainly objected to the Drinking Club shirts because the school puts too many

resources into drug prevention to allow shirts that "promote the idea of alcohol and drug abuse." However, she said that "some teachers didn't even know about the shirts," and that she herself had "not yet been distracted by one."

Said Camacho, "It [the club] started as a big joke, then it became a matter of defiance. Freedom of expression. The whole thing was blown way out of proportion."

Wills and Camacho said that faculty members approached them, worried that "younger kids"- ninth-graders and sophomores-would "practice" drinking to get into the club.

Wills and Camacho further said, "We don't want people to think they have to drink to be accepted by us." Camacho added that he "would probably have more respect for someone who didn't drink, like Jeremy Ward, than for someone who drank just to impress us." Other members said there is no peer pressure involved.

FAN- from pg. 1

wore robes and boxers and were a little "rowdy."

"During the finals there was a game before our team played, so there were still spectators from that previous game," said Mr. Nichols. "When our fans came in, they stood up and cheered."

"Apparently a spectator sitting behind them complained to the security guard who tried to get them to sit, but it didn't work so I got up, motioned them to sit, and they listened. As a result, I was accused of hurting school spirit."

At the baseball finals, the Oyster River fans cheered "winning team, losing team." Mr. Nichols stated, "I received a letter stating that the cheer was rude, of no benefit to the home team, and a put down. We began to receive negative feelings from others."

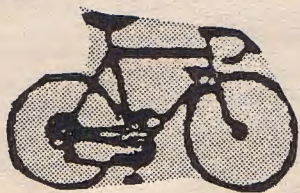
Officials were hard to find because of the fan behavior, he said.

"If that is the feeling, we have to do something to change that. I feel good about this school, and I want others to also," Nichols added.

Varsity basketball player Geoff Forcier said, "As long as the fans do not insult or

FAN- cont. pg. 6

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CHEERLEADERS DIVIDED OVER COACHING

by Stacy Prescott

This year, the seven Oyster River High School cheerleaders are out to prove that people shouldn't hold a negative opinion about them. "We just want to lead the school in spirit in a positive light", said returning member and captain Jen Collins.

November 21, eleven girls tried out, although boys were allowed, for the cheerleading squad. They were expected to be able to do two floor cheers, one side line cheer, various jumps, and acrobatics. Each was interviewed about what they thought about cheerleading and what their goals for the squad were. Seven girls made it; Diana Dodier, Tammi Dodier, Sharon Russell, Melissa Ruskowski, Stephanie Kentris, Jennifer Hogkins, and Collins, who is the only returning member.

Since then, three girls have dropped out of the squad: Kentris, Hogkins, and Russell.

Allegedly some disagreements involving coaching and leadership

surfaced as soon as the squad was formed, but no one was willing to discuss the issue on the record.

The squad has also picked up a few new members: Tracy Dupuis, and Jen Ollic. Also, Eric Singer and Bill McAnirlin were recruited as spotters for the squad. The girls cheer for boys' varsity basketball games and they would like to cheer for the girls' basketball team. A Pep Rally Club is starting for all that are interested but they need a faculty member to work with them. They're also hoping to have a full-time mascot; a live cat, Bob "D" Cat. The squad's goals are to go to competitions, lead the school in spirit, and help bring faculty and students together at pep rallies.

The ORHS cheerleaders feel that people hold a negative opinion about them. "I'm mad because everyone looks down at us, and I hope that we can change their views," said Tami Dodier. "We will go on supporting even if we're put down," says Diana Dodier.



Letter to the Editor

To the Editor,

I was quite disturbed when I read the article in your last paper about polystyrene products and their uses at McDonald's. Much of the information was inaccurate, and I feel as a representative of that company, I need to set the record straight.

The number one problem people see in using polystyrene is that since there are so many people who eat at fast food restaurants, the polystyrene waste must be immense in landfills. However as research has proven, McDonald's styrofoam products made up only 1/4 of one percent of the waste in landfills. That is not a very considerable number!

Biodegradability- another misconception about our styrofoam at McDonald's. Contrary to popular belief, McDonald's does use a biodegradable products

for its sandwiches. As for the use of paper, think about this - a newspaper from 22 years ago was found in a landfill. It was still perfectly legible. The article written in your paper promoted the use of paper products because they biodegrade.

"Polystyrene is a one time deal..." wrote your concerned citizen in the paper. If they had researched more they would be informed that McDonald's is recycling their polystyrene products now. Coat hangers, food service trays, laundry baskets - virtually anything made out of plastic is being made from our recycled products. Polystyrene is not a one time deal.

In closing, I believe that if people are going to write an article on something they know nothing about, they should at least take the step to research the subject- NOT MAKING ASSUMPTIONS!

Thank you,
Mellissa Stoakes

JOB- cont. from pg. 4

he's gone down three pant sizes to his present "39". At the peak of his youth (as he likes to say it) he was sent to Vietnam. Knowing him I'm not sure whether it was by the draft or conscious choice. While on the little escapade he lost all but two teeth and was sprayed with agent orange. Each year the government screens him for cancer. "I'd never quit here, I'm too well off" I heard him say.

C'mon Buck, you're hitting 40 years and the best you can do is five dollars and some change an hour. Buck isn't really a bad guy -- he looks out for people and can get my ideas through to the boss without a "what do you know, twerp?" look.

Next are the dishes; nine different kinds. Plus the silverware, the glasses, and the seven totally unique sundae dishes. And, of course, all that food that comes in with them. Maybe I've been spared, but not many times in my life have I felt lower than when having to peel apart maple syrup covered ashtrays with the ashes all suspended in the syrup, with cold egg yolk covering the insides of my hands. Usually this is accompanied by a yelling boss and five more stacks of bus pans. I've probably been spared.

Of course, working at Friendly's does have its advantages, like I get half price on anything in the store...

I think I'll quit Saturday.

GEPHART-from pg. 5

January, where she trains until May. She lives with her in Irvine, California and receives monthly checks from her main sponsor: Saucony Athletic Shoes. She chooses to train in California, where it is warm and the land is not flat, which are perfect conditions for biking. The intense training takes up the whole day. She has two workouts per day, whether it be swimming, biking or running. A longer ride would be 70 miles, and a long run would be 12 miles.

She does each of these every week, along with her other training.

Mrs. Gephart is also busy with necessary managerial aspects of her triathalons. She must get in contact

with the various race directors to enter. Some races require a resume, which she must prepare.

Mrs. Gephart has had a few great coaches. While attending Michigan State University, John Goodridge was her coach from the year 1979 to 1984. Today, she does not feel she needs a coach, as she has enough knowledge now how to make an excellent schedule that she sticks to. She often consults others for tips and advice.

Mrs. Gephart is sponsored by Saucony athletic shoes, who sends her a monthly check. She is also sponsored by Scott Tinley Performance Wear as well as by other small product sponsors.



FAN- cont. from pg. 5

assault the other team or their fans then they can act as they wish. I see nothing wrong with that."

Varsity hockey player Jamie McKinnon commented that "some people are now afraid to cheer loudly. The spirit is fading."

On December 5 the boys' basketball teams had a home game against Pelham and few showed up to cheer.

"Basketball is a team game. You only win when you play as a team. The fans are a part of that team and it helps us to win when they are a part of the game," said Forcier.

Varsity basketball coach Don Maynard said, "I wish we had the support the girls' volleyball team had."

Mr. Nichols also heard from four sources that there was talk of him banning the boys' soccer team's tie dyed shirts. "That is NOT true. I think the tie dyes looked great," he said.

Mr. Nichols said, "I want everyone to get psyched for their game, but also realize it is just a game, concentrate on the sport, not humiliating or destroying anyone. Your opponent is your opponent, not your enemy."



"We are the children of your future?
You're kidding, right?"

YEAR BOOK

by Brigid Murray

Unlike past years the Oyster River High School year book will be selling for \$25.00 instead of \$20.00.

Last Friday the 1989-90 year books went on sale for five dollars more than usual. Charlie Adkins,

the year book's editor said the increase in the price of the year book is due to inflation. Adkins said that last year the book cost \$38.00 to assemble, adds covered \$18.00, so the overall price was \$20.00. This year the book went up to \$46.00 to assemble, still adds cover \$18.00 so the price is now \$25.00 per book.

TRACK COACH SEES GOOD YEAR AHEAD

by John Waskiewicz

Seniors Jim Poteet, Mike Levasseur and Bill Myers were recently chosen by returning coach Joe Scascitelli as the three new Varsity captains for the O.R.H.S. Boys Winter Track Team.

Coach Scascitelli feels that this year's team of 20 members, twice that of last year, has a large building potential in many events. The Bobcats first meet will be on Friday Dec. 22 at UNH.

"We lost both Mark Hegarty and Matt Clegg who were our highest scores last year," said Scascitelli. He felt that his team was not as balanced as he would

have liked it to be last year and hopes to improve their overall standings by developing a more balanced scoring team.

The Bobcats train for their events by following a rigorous practice schedule which includes daily weight training. The team also enjoys being the only team in N.H. able to use an indoor track. Practices are held at least twice a week at the indoor track in the Field House at UNH. Being able to use the indoor track is a great advantage because we get more indoor training than other team's," said Poteet.

Myers will not be able to compete for at least a month due to a

leg injury resulting in a brace on his leg. "I'm still lifting weights and helping out where I can," said Myers optimistically.

Other team members include junior John Cabral, Sophomore Brendan Amman and ninth-grader Gabe Brown who coach Scascitelli expects to do well in the shotput. Some of the bobcat sprinters are seniors Greg Varholly, Richard Khlief, junior Kevin Myslivy, sophomores Jim Spires, Jamie Archie and Ben Hudson. Seniors Poteet, Levasseur and ninth-graders Brian Farnald, Russel Warren and Mike Northrup are expected to do well in the distance runs because of their previous successes

V HOCKEY- cont.

from pg. 8

well," said Cleary, "but we (the team) and coach (Jeff Smith) know we're going to turn a lot of heads."

First year coach, Jeff Smith, has high hopes for his team and many teammates feel he is doing an excellent job.

Players include: Captain Erin Marcotte, Captain Chris Mautz, co-captain Shawn Amazeen, co-captain Jamie McKinnon, Doug Cleary, Toby Mautz, Chris Gault, Mark Walsh, Mike Williams, Aaron McKay, Lance Waterfield, Mike Moriarty, Ung Saravong, Scott Matseas, Jeff Bibbo, Chris Loughlin, Jesse Fields, Jon Roy and George Jenkins.

JV HOCKEY-cont.

from pg. 8

team needs to improve. The new O.R.H.S. JV hockey coach, expects his team to better the record of last year's winless JV team, despite his team's three losses in the preseason Turkey Shoot Tournament in Dover. The Bobcats lost the first game 3-0 to Berwick, the second to Spaulding 1-0 and the third game to Somersworth 1-0.

Coach Jeff Bardwell attributed the losses to the team's relative inexperience. "We should have won the Somersworth game, our speed picked up and we were starting to play more as a team." He remains optimistic about the upcoming regular season beginning this Saturday against Berwick Academy.

"Our main problem right now is to find a goalie" he

Team managers; Juli Bullard and Pam Worden.

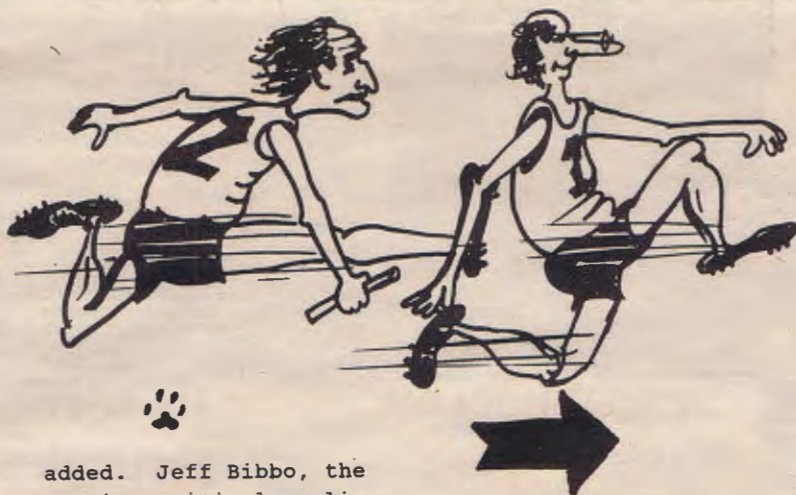
"The team is finally starting to come together and we're looking forward to attaining a decent playoff berth," commented captain Chris Mautz.

The Bobcats next game is home against Portsmouth on Dec. 18 at 6pm.

added. Jeff Bibbo, the team's original goalie is not able to play now because of an arm injury.

Currently, sophomore Alex Roy, normally a defenseman, has become the alternate goaltender. "I think we will do pretty good this year, this year's team is probably better than last year's," commented Roy who saved 27 shots in the game.

Team member Jonah Salloway who was moved down from the varsity team said "I'm glad to be playing JV because I will get more playing time and a chance to improve a lot. Practices are fun and the coach is helpful," added Salloway. Other members include Scott Troxell, Dan Gault, Donald Lafarriere, Darren Miller and James Dolan.



Girls Winter Track 10 of 17 Return

by Heidi James

The Oyster River Girls Winter Track Team begins their season next Saturday, against Nashua, Pinkerton, Timberlane, and West, at the UNH Indoor Track, 2-6 p.m.

Coaching this season are Jeff Johnson, long distance coach, and David 'Doc' Burton, sprinting, jumping and throwing coach. They have held three practices. The practices include a lot of speed and endurance training unlike the cross-country training which involved long distance practices.

Winter Track includes many events: 55 meter dash, 300, 600, 1000, 1500, and 3000 meter runs, 55 meter hurdles, shotput, high jump, long jump, and relays. Members of the team participate in multiple competitions, not just in one type of race.

This season's girls track team includes many members from the cross-country team. These athletes are in a resting period, but soon will be joining the team. The 17 members of the girls winter track team include: Seniors, Lisa Barney, Amy Martin, Kathy Cunniff, Stephanie Chasteen, and Heather Shenefiel; Juniors, Jen Thompson, Melissa Geaslin, and Jen Jenkins; Sophomores, Sharon Russel, Jessica Thibault, Katrin Bergeron, and Mara Kerns; Ninth-graders; Ambre Proulx, Amy Levesque, Sarla DeGeorge, Sarah Gooze, and Stephanie Adams.

Of the 17, 10 are returning from last year.

All high school meets will be held at the UNH indoor track except for the New England's which will be held at Brown University.

"Hanover, for the first time will be competing as a winter track team which may pose a threat to the state meet," said Lisa Barney, the state long jump champion.

"They will be a threat for the fact that Hanover has been number one in Spring Track at states every year and Oyster River Second," said Amy Martin.



Kathy Cunniff races to victory

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Sports



GIRLS' VARSITY HOOP IN SLOW START

by Evan Wallman

This Monday at home the Oyster River Girls Varsity Basketball Team squares up against Kingswood for their seventh game of the season.

Coach Alicia Ditamasso feels Kingswood "probably is going to be good this year because they were real young last year," and they "beat us early in the season."

She feels that in order to start winning, "We need to put the ball in the hoop. We get plenty of shooting opportunities," she says, but adds that they are hurt by the quarters in which they only score seven or eight points.

The starting line-up is Senior Co-captain Kim Morrell at center, Junior Susan Varholy and Sophomore Julie Walsh at the guard positions, and forwards Senior Co-captain Leslie Christenson, and Jen Friel, who is the leading scorer,

averaging 13 points. Other players include: Juniors Rosemary Boone, Dawn-Elynn Bosquin, Rei Matsuda, Lori Slippy and Brenda Worden.

The young team is averaging 37 points while their opponents average 49. Coach Ditamasso said, "because of our youth, no game will be easy this year." She is expecting it to be a "building year."

Last Friday, the girls played Timberlane, and were defeated 61 to 43. Morrell said "We needed to work the boards more, and slow up our offense." The high scorer was Jen Friel with 19 points. The Bobcats were 13 for 18 from the foul line.

Earlier this week, the Bobcats faced Mt. St. Mary and Merrimack Valley. Christianson says, "We have a lot of talent," but adds that to have a good season, "We need more teamwork." The JV girls have started the season well, winning four of their first five games.

BOBCATS SPLIT WITH WIN OVER PELHAM, LOSS TO TIMBERLANE AS SEASON OPENS

by Brigid Murray

Last Friday night the Oyster River Boys Varsity Basketball Team lost a close game to high ranking Timberlane 49-53 in overtime.

"We just hung in there till the end," said Eric Sunberg, co-captain. "I was very pleased with the team's effort. Timberlane is one of the best and they're hard to match up to."

Next Tuesday, Oyster River is playing Merrimack Valley who's line-up is equipped with 6'8" Scott Drapau. Geoff Forcier says, "If we play even better than we did Friday night, then we might just have a win." Forcier and Sunberg agreed that the Bobcats needed to get psyched up for their game against Merrimack Valley.

Last Thursday night the Bobcats played their first regular season game against Pelham, squashing them 68-35. Coach Don Maynard was pleased with the win, but had a couple of complaints. "We need more heart in our defense and we need a bigger crowd." Maynard said he was looking for a crowd like Girls Varsity Volleyball had this fall.



Mike Jackson shoots for two.

Maynard said he was looking at a challenging year ahead of him and the team. "I have high hopes for this team. Since they've been playing high school basketball, they've only lost seven of their regular season games."



Coach Parratto looks on while Kerry Swift and Danika Harris swim laps

Swimmers Prepare Optimistically

by Ben Simpson

The Oyster River High School Swim Team is practicing hard in preparation for the first of their only four meets this season, on January 6.

The team of 20 will mainly rely on the swimming strengths of sophomore Larrisa junior Heidi James.

Harold, senior Jason Seaver, and the only diver on the team,

Jason Seaver is quite optimistic about the season. "This year I hope we can place higher in the state championships, maybe in the top two," said Seaver, "but Exeter will be a hard team to beat." Exeter has won the last three state championships.

On January 6, the bobcats will face Exeter and Dover in a tri-meet.

Varsity Hockey Falls to Timberlane

By Alison Clifford

The Oyster River High School lost their first game of the season to Exeter H.S. 4-3, Tuesday night at Exeter. The game was a rematch from Saturday's 11:15 am game in Durham after it was called during the second period due to problems with the ice.

"We really deserved to win," said senior Doug Cleary. "It was a good game."

In the first period the score was 1-1, the second 2-2, the third, Exeter got a 2 goal lead making it 4-2 but Chris Mautz scored closing the lead by one.

"Everyone feels we aren't going to do that."

V HOCKEY- cont. on pg.

JV hockey struggles in loss, but looks to improve

George Jenkins.

by John Waskiewicz

The O.R.H.S. JV hockey team lost 4-1 against Berwick at the Dover ice arena despite strong play by ninth-graders Owen Bruder, captain John Hill and

Bruder scored the Bobcat goal off of a rebound on a shot from defenseman Hill. The coach thought they did well for their first game and now knows how and in what areas the JV HOCKEY-cont. on pg. 7



Chris Gault squares up against St. Thomas